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YOUR FAVORITE PHOTO

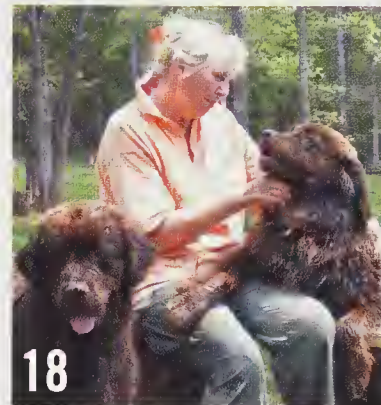
Our annual gallery of your photographs.

18 PETS WELCOME

Someone once said dogs must go to heaven when they die, because heaven just wouldn't be heaven without dogs. Perhaps we'll never know, but dog owners say they are finding a dog haven in the North Carolina foothills.

ON THE COVER

Todd Elliott uses this photo of Captain, one of his roosters, in a 4-H Entertains routine titled "Adventures in the Chicken Coop." He snagged the portrait by holding Captain in a scissors-lock between his legs while manually setting his AT-1 Canon SLR camera with extension tubes. "I caught Captain when he was about to blink," Todd says. He lives in Union Mills and is a member of Rutherford EMC. See more of your favorite photos on pages 12-16.



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From the heart of southern Louisiana

By Billy Gibson



All across the nation and around the world people watched in horror as the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Katrina unfolded on their television screens. For days the mass media trained their collective spotlight on the Mississippi Gulf Coast where inhabitants living and working along the shoreline were blasted with a tsunami-like storm surge. Television crews chronicled the mass exodus of tens of thousands of weary citizens out of New Orleans, which commentators started calling "below ground zero."

But while all the attention was focused on the more heavily impacted areas, there were many struggles taking place away from the spotlight. Far beyond the Mississippi Gulf Coast, for example, Katrina caused destruction in just about every county in Mississippi. And in Louisiana, the property and livelihoods of people in the delta parishes southeast of New Orleans and the rural dairy country north of Lake Pontchartrain were completely wiped out. But you probably didn't hear much about the plights of those people.

One such place still dealing with Katrina's aftermath on the shadow of these more high-profile localities is Franklinton, La., headquarters of Washington-St. Tammany Electric (WSTE). While other Louisiana electric cooperatives were able to restore power fairly soon, the co-op located closest to the path of Katrina's 30-mile eye wall sustained major damage with an estimated 3,500 miles of power line lying on the ground, entombed beneath a pile of pine trees and massive oaks.

Katrina left the co-op's 45,000 members, along with the entire southeast quadrant of Louisiana and the entire Mississippi coast, in the dark for days. Remarkably, no fatalities were attributed to the storm in Washington Parish, but damage to homes, automobiles, businesses and other property was extensive.

WSTE kicked its emergency response plan into gear, although the plan had to be "super-sized" to deal with the widespread devastation. But it was soon apparent that Katrina wasn't the only nemesis the co-op would have to overcome. Another unanticipated problem was quickly becoming apparent: those resources typically available in times of crisis were being diverted elsewhere—to New Orleans, to Gulfport and to those places where evacuees were fleeing.

Some personnel and equipment that could have been mobilized were being used in the Middle East. Even local con-

sumers, church groups, civic organizations and others who often show up to help their co-op in emergencies were busy evacuating the area or taking care of their own families and trying to keep from drowning in a sea of felled pine trees.

Soon, the realization set in: WSTE was essentially on its own. It was as if the community and its citizens were catapulted into a time warp, back to a period when no one paid country folks much mind whether they were in a state of crisis or not. WSTE found itself on an island, as when farms and small towns 70 years ago had no electric power systems while more populated areas nearby did. And when a tractor-trailer rig full of ice bound for the co-op was commandeered under martial law and diverted for other uses, that island began shrinking.

“There was only one dependable source of assistance, and that was the national cooperative network.”


There was only one dependable source of assistance, and that was the national cooperative network. And cooperatives throughout the country, and their affiliates, responded in spades.

As WSTE worked frantically to muster men and the supplies needed to accommodate them for a power restoration process that was

expected to take more than a month, officials struggling to coordinate an emergency response with no power, no phones, no ice and a limited supply of fuel, began making specific requests via courier to their statewide cooperative association and their national Internet network. Soon, supplies and materials began rolling in from every direction. From our fellow co-ops in Louisiana and beyond the Southern region, line workers, equipment and provisions filled makeshift warehouses to the ceiling. Every request returned reams of responses.

When the countryside was ignored before, self-determined citizens responded by creating a national network that allows each respective system to remain small enough to stay focused on the community it serves while tapping into the strength of the national network in dealing with political entities or in times of emergency.

It's the same dynamic that has allowed cooperatives to thrive for more than 70 years, and Hurricane Katrina demonstrates that it's just as effective today as it ever was.

From Louisiana, thanks to all who responded in this time of crisis. And thanks for your thoughts and prayers. 

Billy Gibson is director of communications for the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.



helping others. Is this not symbolic of co-op employees?

When things are bad, that's when cooperative family members rise to the occasion. Our cry for help has been heard and our cooperative friends have, without hesitation, sent help. We continue to hear from people offering assistance and without doubt will be

At this time, the following states are assisting: Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Ron Stewart

*Electric Power Associations of Mississippi
Ridgeland, Miss.*

Sent to electric cooperative magazines on Aug. 31, 2005

We will survive

At present we have approximately 449,000 meters without service or 64 percent of our total systems. All systems are reporting outages. One system has 30,000 poles on the ground. Nine of our 25 distribution co-ops have virtually no meters on. Approximately 1,000 emergency crew members from seven states are here or en route. We have transmission problems.

Many co-op employees have lost their homes, but yet they are back at work

accepting their offers. After all, one system is reporting it will take up to six weeks to restore.

Hey, we will survive because we have a network that believes in coming to the aid of others, no matter the sacrifice. As they say at one of the co-ops, it took 65 years to build, one stormy night to destroy, and maybe six weeks to rebuild. What a testimony to the cooperative way of doing business.

A simple thanks is not enough, but what more can we say?

From Alabama

As I traveled to work this morning in Birmingham, I saw the many utility trucks from your area headed toward the hurricane-stricken area. Thanks for your work to rebuild the coast and the lives of so many. Please tell your employees and their families, thanks for their work.

S. Clark

Birmingham, Ala.

By e-mail, Aug. 30, 2005

WHERE IN
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IS THIS? →



This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by October 6 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
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The winner, chosen at random and announced in our November issue, will receive \$25.

The Winner:

The scene in the September magazine showed the Alpine Inn, located on 701 South near the summer resort of White Lake in Bladen County. John Bennett built the inn in 1954 after Hurricane Hazel roared through Bladen County. First known as the Patio Motel, then the Airport Inn, Bennett changed the inn's name to Alpine Inn in the 1970s at the suggestion of his daughter. Bennett, 86, a World War II pilot, also builds experimental planes in a garage attached to the inn. He enjoys flying on moonlit nights, so if you are in the area one night and hear the whine of a modified Volkswagen engine, look up! While not on Four County EMC's line, the inn is surrounded by the co-op's territory. Bennett says, "I wish we were on the co-op line!" Correct answers were numbered and the \$25 winner chosen at random was Polly Smith of Garland, a member of South River EMC.



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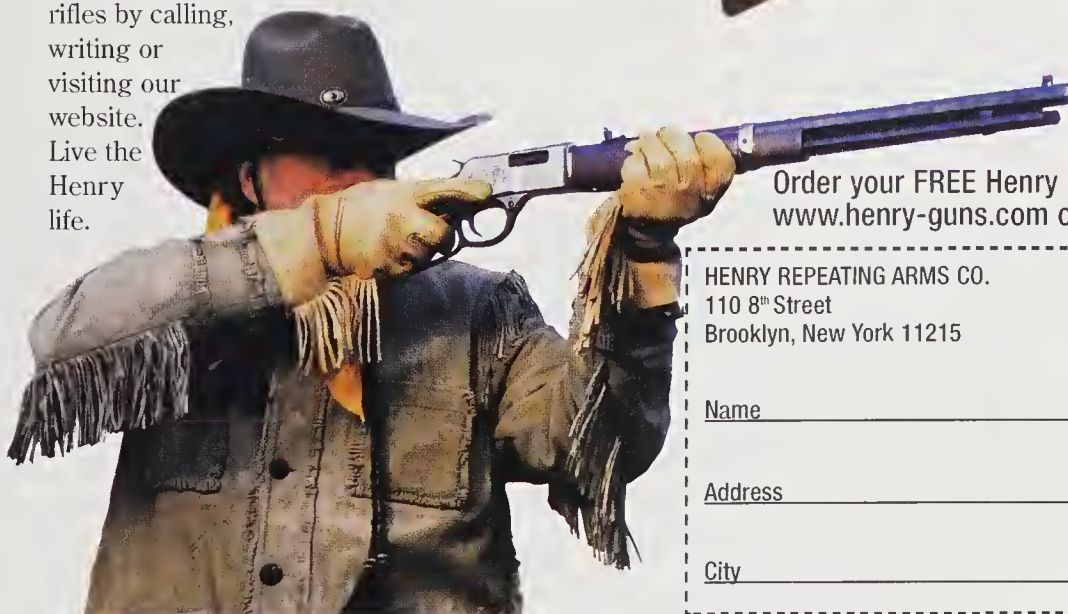
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Co-ops kept consumer protection in the federal energy act

By George Stuteville

Energy analysts and even President Bush told us that the new federal energy legislation enacted this summer wouldn't bring quick relief at the gas pump, but the chief spokesman for the nation's consumer-owned electric cooperatives says there are benefits in the new law for co-ops and their member-owners.

"Cooperatives emerged in a great position after years of struggle developing this national energy policy," observed Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The new law preserves the role of co-ops in their communities, English said, and it also positions co-ops to take on more responsibility in an America searching for cleaner coal technologies, renewable energy sources and an expanded, more reliable power grid.

English said the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is futuristic, designed to jump-start innovation with \$12.3 billion in incentives over 10 years.

The law, a massive work of 1,724 pages that weighs about five pounds, is being "translated" by bureaucrats in various federal agencies into the rules and regulations that govern how it will be carried out.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act came from at least nine years of work by co-op directors, staff and member-consumers from all over the country.

English said the most recent work began in 1996, with congressional hearings on legislation targeted at making electricity just another bulk commodity that could be bought and sold like soybeans or corn, and repackaged with costly retail markups to ordinary consumers. At the same time, he said, many lawmakers dismissed co-ops as "dinosaurs"—a throw-back to the Roosevelt era, unable to keep pace with the emerging modern energy markets.

Various events began unmasking the weaknesses of the new energy climate. First came escalating prices of electricity in some states despite the notion that prices would tumble as a result of early

moves to deregulate the electric industry. That was followed by market-caused rolling blackouts in California and the Northwest in the summer of 2000. The unraveling of the giant energy multinational Enron Corp. in 2001 exposed unchecked marketeering, potential harm to consumers and real financial injury to employees and shareholders.

Lawmakers shifted their support from deregulation to providing investor-



It was so much more effective to have a gasoline station owner, or a teacher, or an insurance agent from a co-op board talk knowledgeably about electricity to the lawmakers.

—Glenn English

owned power companies with ways to invest in transmission and generation while shifting costs onto consumers. Then the massive 2003 blackout in the East and Midwest demonstrated the vulnerability of the grid.

"Through all of this, co-ops remained unified and focused. We stuck to our core business, and the co-op values prevailed," English said, adding that co-ops concentrated their strengths at grassroots levels to explain to policymakers the consumer-focused mission of electric co-ops and how co-ops differ fundamentally from others in the electricity sector.

"Our state co-op associations and individual co-op members mastered the issues and went straight to the lawmakers," English said. "It was so much more effective to have a gasoline station owner, or a teacher, or an insurance agent from a co-op board talk knowledgeably about electricity to the lawmakers. And they did so from the standpoint of American consumers."

A renewed effort in 2004 ground to a halt with the elections, but the hurricanes that demolished Florida and much of the Southeast, gave legislators a lesson in the competence and resilience of co-ops, according to English.

"The response to these disasters throughout our cooperative family only added to our credibility. It showed what we knew along — that we already built and paid for almost 50 percent of the power lines in this country, that we represented 37 million Americans, and that we could always get the job done," he said.

By August of this year, Republicans and Democrats worked together and produced a bill President Bush could sign.

For co-ops, much of the significance in the law centers on what is not in it.

For example, federal mandates, which locally owned co-ops generally oppose, have not been written into the standards ordering electricity generators to adhere to a "one-size-fits-all" policy on renewable fuels. Also deleted from the law were the once popular, unregulated "anything goes" price incentives for building new transmission lines eagerly sought by the big power companies, English said.

The law, however, includes provisions co-ops fought for on behalf of consumers.

One of the most important gains, English said, is a provision for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds that gives co-ops comparable standing with private developers and investor-owned utilities in obtaining economical financing for qualified renewable energy projects. It strengthens co-ops' investment opportunities in power generation from wind, hydropower, sun and biomass, such as landfill methane, animal waste and ethanol.

Bottom line, said English, is a new broad policy that encourages energy diversity, technology development, energy efficiency and electricity reliability. **E**

George Stuteville is senior writer for *Electric Co-op Today*, a weekly trade newspaper.

North Carolina co-ops send help to Gulf states co-ops hit by Katrina

As Carolina Country went to press Sept. 8, North Carolina electric co-ops had sent more than 375 workers, as well as more than 180 trucks and other mobile support vehicles, to help cooperatives restore power to Gulf states communities affected by Hurricane Katrina.

The deployment of help is part of a mutual aid agreement shared among the nation's nearly 1,000 electric cooperatives to help one another in times of emergency, such as natural disasters. More than 10,000 co-op workers and their contracted crews from throughout the nation went to help.

"Our heart goes out to the people of the Gulf states during this difficult time," said Nelle Hotchkiss, on behalf of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. "Because the track of the storm did not present a significant threat to North Carolina, we were able to lend assistance to our sister cooperatives in their time of need. We know they would do the same for us. It's the cooperative way."

Since most electric cooperatives use the same engineering and design of line systems, cooperative line crews from varying states are almost interchangeable.

Katrina first hit Florida on Aug. 25. On the morning of Aug. 29, the Category 4 hurricane and its 125 miles-per-hour winds hit the Mississippi and Louisiana coasts. More than 2.7 million people lost power in the Gulf states region.

Many electric co-op employees in the region lost everything they had but the clothes on their backs, but they went straight to work to repair their members' systems. Co-op buildings and assets such as cars and equipment were destroyed. Many North Carolina crews went to Mississippi. Some who were helping at Coast Electric in Bay St. Louis, Miss., reported that more than 50 cooperative employees lost their homes and/or cars, and



Grey Scheer


Blue Ridge Electric, based in Lenoir, sent 10 trucks Sept. 1 to Laurel, Miss., to help Dixie Electric Cooperative restore power to its system damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

during the first week, Coast Electric had not located some of their employees.

Fuel was the main problem in the beginning. Fuel reached the cooperatives, but getting fuel while traveling to the impacted area was difficult.

In the early stages, North Carolina's crews, like their counterparts from other states, slept in their trucks. Their work was difficult at first because so many areas were inaccessible because of debris or flooding. As the crews progressed, co-op members were so pleased to see them that they thanked and hugged them at every opportunity. Soon before they grew weary of their Meals Ready to Eat, the crews met up with people bringing them home-cooked meals, and according to one lineman, southern Mississippi people really know how to make food taste great.

Johnny Barefoot, a Piedmont EMC lineman, reported that where he was in Mississippi the weather was very hot, the fire ants were terrible and the consumers with the co-op were wonderful. He said that all day, every day, all you could hear were airplanes, helicopters, National Guard and news people.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives activated their Human Connections Fund to accept monetary donations intended for cooperative employees in Louisiana and Mississippi. Both statewide co-op organizations have foundations and working with their membership will use the funds to assist co-op employees impacted by the storm. Checks should be payable to Elec Tel Credit Union—Human Connections Fund. 

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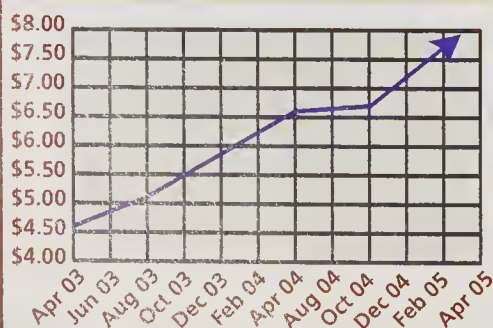
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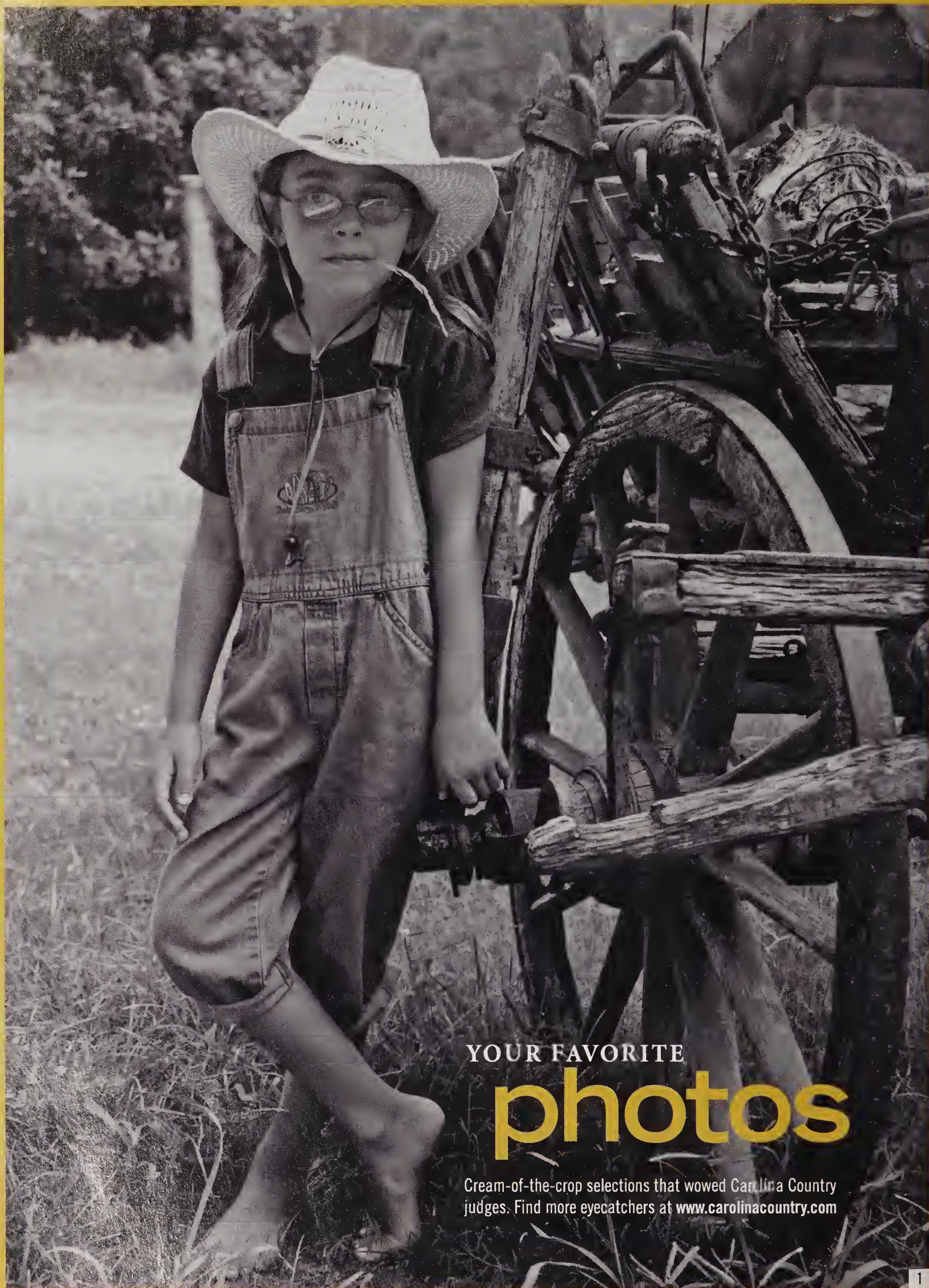
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2

1. We recently moved outside the city limits to a farm where we are connected to Randolph Electric. We love it, but we are renting while we build a house down the road (still Randolph Electric). We decided to have some family pictures made while we are here so we can remember our time "on the farm." A good friend came out with her camera and some black and white film, and we spent the morning just playing around. We got some great pictures, and my favorite is one of my daughter Bailey. I believe she will always be a farm girl at heart, no matter where we live. **Melody Gwyn, Asheboro, Randolph EMC**

2. My daughter was a freshman in college at Banner Elk when she sent me this picture of her doing a backbend on the edge of a mountain, part of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Her name is Stacey Watkins. **Donna Watkins, Thomasville, EnergyUnited**

3. This is Cox's Mill on Mill Creek in the Holly Springs community of Randolph County. The mill was built in the early 20th century by Allison Beane and is also known as Beane's Mill. **Amanda Varner, Asheboro, Randolph EMC**

4. This is my grandmother Elizabeth "Lizzie" Woolard. She grew up in Washington, N.C., the oldest of nine children. She was a hardworking country woman who raised her two children alone once her husband died after 12 years of marriage. She was independent, strong and a devout Christian who also had a gift for gardening. She once put a single rose clipping in the ground and it grew into a bush. She died recently, and I miss her very much. **Kathren Woolard, Huntersville, EnergyUnited**



3



4



Thanks to everyone who sent in pictures. You can see more on our Web site. Next month we'll publish your memories of the dumbest gifts you ever received. (Deadline was Sept. 15). See the themes and rules of our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series on page 16.



5



6





9



10



11

5. Beside our home we have a pond where the dragonflies are like little dancing jewels all over the place. I love all manner of wildlife, and I have passed this along to my daughter who isn't afraid of anything buggy, furry, crawly or flyie. On the evening this picture was taken we were all out in the yard tinkering in the flowerbeds. We happened to notice a dragonfly land on a nearby tree and went over to investigate. My daughter, without hesitation, reached out with her tiny finger and slowly put it underneath the dragonfly. Much to our surprise she lifted up her finger, and there he sat. Of course, we made a mad dash to grab the camera. I think time must have frozen for us, because we were able to get the camera and snap a few pictures before he finally decided to fly away from our dragonfly charmer. **Sherry Lovett, Hampstead, Four County EMC**

6. The Jerusalem artichoke has pretty black-eyed Susan-like flowers and grows tubers. Your salad will be enhanced by its crispy texture, and they can be used instead of potatoes in your gourmet cooking. They also are a friend to diabetics. This particular plant outgrew me, so I could get underneath it to show the dark blue sky. My photo won the blue ribbon in the Davidson County Senior Games. **Hazel B. Kimrey, Denton, EnergyUnited**

7. This is Carolina Beach municipal docks just before 6:39 am on May 26, 2005. Carolina Beach has been a family favorite for the last 18 years. **Ken Hall, Garner**

8. This is a photo we took at our home in Wilkesboro. We also have a summer place on the New River that is served by Blue Ridge Electric. **Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bumgarner, Wilkesboro, Blue Ridge Electric**

9. For my son's first Halloween, we found the most adorable pumpkin outfit. We ventured out to Hart's Pumpkin Farm in Goldston for their annual Pumpkin Festival. Carter had a wonderful time checking out all of the pumpkins, tractors and animals. If I were the judge, he would have won first prize for "Best in Show" in the pumpkin contest. **Jodie Phillips, Bear Creek, Central EMC**

10. Since my retirement on May 1, I have enjoyed early morning "meditation walks" along the Pamlico River. Up by 5:30 a.m., I have my coffee and then I'm down to the shore. Standing on the end of the dock, I watch the sunrise, my binoculars in one hand and camera in the other. I always watch for signs of wildlife. On mornings after the August fog lifts, the bright sun shines out straight from heaven. Shadows cast themselves on the "slick calm" river bordered by the grand ol' cypress trees and marsh full of cattails. **Julia A. Paul, Blounts Creek, Tideland EMC**

11. I was in my garden one morning, trying to get some shots of butterflies, when a hummingbird unexpectedly flew up into view. **Rebecca Yarborough, age 17, Mocksville, EnergyUnited**



12. After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, my husband, Charles, and I decided to re-paint our mailbox. We painted it red, white and blue in memory of those who died that day, and as a thank-you to all of the soldiers who were called to arms. That winter, my dad, Joseph R. Abernethy 3rd, photographed all the mailboxes at the end of our driveway when they were covered with snow. He called his photograph "Cold Glory." **Cheryl A. Richardson, Iron Station, Rutherford EMC**

13. One of my passions is taking pictures, and another is my dogs, who are my babies. My friends and family tease me about taking my camera everywhere, but they always want copies of the pictures later. On this day I was taking pictures of my best friend's two children. We were in Hinshaw Gardens in Yadkinville. My boxer Maizy was with us. We were getting ready to pick up and move when Maizy went up to Chase to give him kisses. That just tickled him to death.

Christy Clark, Mocksville, EnergyUnited

14. This is my 5-year-old granddaughter, Kaelah Weaver, at the Catawba Science Center. **Veronica MacKinnon, Lincolnton, Rutherford EMC**

Send us your best **Earn \$50**

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you \$50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

December 2005 Holiday Mishaps

Those holiday plans that just didn't work out as you hoped they would.

Deadline: Oct. 15

January 2006

How I Improved My Health

One thing you did that made you a lot healthier.

Deadline: Nov. 15

February 2006 We Made History

Who in your family made a mark in North Carolina history? Send a photo, if you have one.

Deadline: Dec. 15

March 2006 Why I'm a Gardener

The real reason you tend a garden.

Deadline: Jan. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
Or by e-mail: finer@carolinacountry.com
Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

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Reflections

Looking at the way we were

"Carolina Country Reflections," a book of nearly 200 photographs showing life in rural North Carolina before 1970, is now available for shipping. The pictures show scenes of families, farms, working, gatherings, fun times and everyday life, along with the stories behind the pictures.

This is a limited edition printing of a high-quality, hardcover "coffee table book," measuring 8½ x 11 inches with 160 pages. **Now available for the special price of \$46** (\$38.95 plus \$4.32 shipping and \$2.73 sales tax). The price will increase after January 1, 2006.

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O R D E R Y O U R C O P Y T O D A Y !



Pets Welcome

**A campground in the foothills
helps owners and their pets
enjoy the outdoors together**

Text by Karen Olson House

On a recent summer evening, the exotic aroma of spicy pork, chicken and curry arose from a rural campground's covered pavilion and noses lifted appreciatively. The dogs and humans arriving for "Asian Extravaganza Night" were in for a treat.

As hungry folks lined up to the buffet, their pets milled companionably by their sides or roamed in a playground nearby. Meik Bartoschek, the campground's co-owner and chef, explained the dishes: "yam nua" is a cold salad with cucumber, bean sprouts, tomatoes and round steak; "satey" (pronounced saw-tay) is a grilled and skewered chicken, topped off by a peanut-chili sauce; this other dish is cashew chicken.

While Meik ladled out the portions, his wife Birgit joked with the T-shirted campers and inquired about their pooches. The group, a sociable mix of middle-aged couples and single women, exchanged names and shared pet tales. After leisurely enjoying buffet seconds, the diners polished off Meik's grilled banana dessert and left to go lounge at the communal fire ring or play with their pets.

Talk about your happy campers.

Four Paws Kingdom

Designed to be full-service, Four Paws Kingdom, just outside Rutherfordton, is a campground that welcomes dog owners and their pets with weekend festivities and amenities such as biscuit treats, champion-

sized dog agility rings, an off-leash swimming pond, fenced dog parks and a custom-designed "doggy bathhouse." Tucked away in Rutherford County in the North Carolina foothills, the campground opened in June of 2004 and is served by the area's Touchstone Energy cooperative, Rutherford EMC.

Since June, it's hosted more than 1,200 dogs and 1,000 people, along with energetic events ranging from a 1970s trivia challenge, a Karaoke sing-along and electronic darts tournament to Olympic dog games, bandana painting classes, theme potlucks and a seminar with author and animal communicator Danika Nadzan.

Meik and Birgit, married since 1987, say their love of dogs gave rise to the concept of the campground. Meik (pronounced Mike) is a former international hospitality consultant and Birgit is an artist, makeup professional and certified dog trainer. They both worked for many years throughout Europe training employees and entertainers for the five-star European resort Aldiana. They loved dogs but couldn't own them because they traveled so much.

As they contemplated changing careers, the adventurous German-born couple eyed the U.S. and bandied ideas about.

Birgit (top photo) with two campground guests. She and her husband Meik (next page, top left) built Four Paws Kingdom from the ground up. Photos courtesy of Four Paws Kingdom.

*Someone once said
dogs must go to
heaven when they die,
because heaven just
wouldn't be heaven
without dogs. Perhaps
we'll never know, but
dog owners say they
are finding a dog
haven in the North
Carolina foothills.*





What solid skills could they bring to a new venture? What did they really love doing? "We asked ourselves, 'What have we done and how can we use it in our dream to do something for dogs?'" recalls Meik.

Once they had their vision, they quickly ran with it. The self-described spontaneous couple rented an RV and hunted property in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Pennsylvania. As fate would have it, they nailed their loca-

tion as they were leaving to go home, on the final day of their six-week search. "When I saw the house, I immediately envisioned an office inside with my art," says Birgit, smiling at the memory.

They bought the 32-acre property in 2001, which was almost all dense, uncleared forest. They set about lugging mounds of dirt and rock, building fences, constructing buildings and cabin porches, putting up drywall and learning as they went. They created each RV, tent and cabin site themselves.

They also installed the water, sewer and electricity, including installing up to the 500-amp load centers. Rutherford EMC took it from there to their transformer terminals, according to Meik. "Rutherford Electric was very forthcoming and open-minded in terms of helping us complement our design," he says. "They were always punctual and we never had to wait for anything."

As far as the sewer, "Birgit installed the last sewer pipe, after I tore a ligament," Meik recalls.

The market for dog vacations

While they built their campground, Meik used his marketing talents to research campgrounds and post updates on RV Internet forums. Birgit was painting colorful, upbeat campground signs and designing cabin interiors with sunny yellow shades and see-through pet doors.

Meik's research showed that although more than 70 percent of RV, tent and cabin vacationers travel with their pets, this would be the first and only dog-dedicated campground in the U.S. He says he briefly consulted a campground expert, who implied their plan was stupid, advised them to squeeze in many more sites for profit, and quoted them an "outrageous price" for more discussion.

"That was challenge enough to me to build it just the way we planned," says Meik, laughing.

With their two Corgi dogs, Schroeder and Linus, by their sides, they handle day-to-day campground operations that can range from cleaning the bathrooms to assisting a camper with an injured dog. Birgit conducts dog obedience and discipline workshops, teaches painting and makeup application, and sells her art and homebaked dog treats at the cheery camp store. Meik oversees book-keeping and administration and offers cooking classes.

Their Four Paws Kingdom Foundation, formed in 2004, promotes responsible pet ownership through educational seminars and workshops. "We wanted to create a better relationship between humans and dogs," Birgit says.

Initially, most Four Paws campers came from a 100-mile radius from Rutherfordton, but now the Bartoscheks are seeing RVs pull in from California, Maine, Massachusetts and Michigan.

Campers Lou Shaffner and Larry Boyd come from Concord and have been parking their RV at Four Paws about one weekend a month since it opened. "We found that at other pet-friendly campgrounds you had to confine your dog at your site," said Lou. "You could walk your dog, but only in a special walk area." They like Four Paws for its family-oriented atmosphere. "Ever been to campgrounds with rowdy, loud partyers?" Larry asked. "That doesn't exist here." 🐕

One of the Bartoscheks' two Corgis plays at an agility ring.

What's Up at Four Paws?

Four Paws Kingdom campground has an entertainment pavilion, state-of-the-art camper bathhouse, 42 full hook-up RV sites with SAT/TV, six tent sites and two cabins. There are more than four acres of fully fenced, off-leash dog parks, with separate areas for small and large dogs, more than 20 acres of hiking trails, and a children's playground.

October Festivities at Four Paws

- **Oct. 1:** Oktoberfest Weekend with German music and an Oktoberfest dinner.
- **Oct. 8:** American burger/hot dog potluck.
- **Oct. 9:** Halloween craft project class.
- **Oct. 16:** Dog obedience workshop.
- **Oct. 21–22:** Weekend special.
- **Oct. 28–29:** Halloween "farewell" weekend that encourages dogs and their "hoomans" to dress up in costume.

Activities are for campers only because of space, but campers may bring friends and relatives after checking first about availability.

The campground closes Nov. 1. For next season, the Bartoscheks plan to re-open April 13 and operate until Nov. 27, 2006.

Current rates for tents and RVs range from \$23–\$35 and cabins range from \$55–\$65.

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Karen Olson House



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Well known in Columbus County as a farmer and gifted artist, Mickey Hobbs recently decided to try combining his skills into a new business. He is carving intricate country scenes into almost anything wooden: bed boards, mantles, armoires, doors, tables. He is devoted to the country way of life, and his artwork includes outdoor scenes and families working on farms like the one where he grew up. Hobbs' artwork, from sculptures to furniture, is handcrafted with nature scenes carved into the wood. His sculptures have a 3-D effect where you can touch the subjects in each scene. He transforms ordinary pieces of furniture into pieces of art.


Prints sell for \$35 to \$50 unframed. Sculptures start at \$100. Carved furniture is done on a custom basis and varies according to detail.

For more information on Mickey Hobbs' artwork call (888) 271-0469 or visit www.mickeyhobbs.com

Helping small businesses in Columbus County

Mickey Hobbs had some success marketing prints and original art, but he was still looking for additional outlets. So he signed up for a free program at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville that helps entrepreneurs to start new businesses and keep existing ones going.

Columbus County has come through the changes in the agriculture and textile industries and now encourages small businesses. The community college started the program to stimulate this "Mom and Pop" economy. Funded through a Community Entrepreneurial Demonstration Grant, the program targets entrepreneurs with talent, drive and ideas, but who need direction to achieve their goals. Services include asset analysis, entrepreneur forums, development of a Small Business Resource Guide, business plans, networking, coaching and mentoring.

For more information about the Small Business Start-up Grant Program at Southeastern Community College, contact Jeanne Tongson at (910) 642-7141, ext. 232. 



Mickey Hobbs of Columbus County carved this mountain scene into a wooden door.



THE MYSTERIES OF

Monarch Migration

Tiny tags can tell us more about the monarch butterfly's amazing journeys

By Carla Burgess

Butterflies have intrigued people for centuries, and few species are as bewitching as the monarch. Admired throughout history for its graceful flight and vivid orange-and-black markings, it is celebrated today for an astonishing feat: A single monarch may travel as many as 3,000 miles—from Canada to Mexico—during its annual fall migration. It is the only butterfly known to migrate north and south as birds do.

Fascination with monarchs and a desire to learn more about them combine to produce a curious sight each fall: butterfly lovers catching and releasing monarchs as the butterflies make their way toward wintering grounds in the mountains of Mexico. These volunteer scientists give the monarchs a little package to take on their trip. It's a tiny round sticker, a little larger than a hole-punch, attached to the butterfly's wing. Each self-adhesive tag bears a unique identification number, an e-mail address, and a toll-free phone number for Monarch Watch, the University of Kansas-based program that has sponsored monarch tagging since 1992. Once the monarch is tagged, the handler sends the butterfly

on its way, often with a wish or a prayer for a safe journey.

Like sending a message in a bottle, there is a remote chance that the tagger might receive a response. After submitting the tag number to Monarch Watch, a person may monitor the Web site database to see if his or her butterfly is spotted somewhere down the line and how far it traveled. The odds of recovery are slim—of some 100,000 butterflies tagged each year, among tens of millions of migrating monarchs, only .03 to 3 percent of tags turn up (just over 10,000 since Monarch Watch began). But some people are lucky, like Charles Cameron of Greensboro.

Since he began tagging monarchs in 1999, 18 of his butterflies have been found and reported to Monarch Watch. Most of Cameron's monarchs made it all the way to El Rosario, Mexico, their largest winter refuge. The farthest one of his monarchs traveled was 1,693 miles.

"It was pretty neat that a monarch you had your hands on actually made it to Mexico," says Cameron, who has tagged about 1,800 monarchs. "But the down side is it didn't live to come back." As

monarchs range throughout the United States and Canada in spring and summer, they reproduce, cycling through three or four generations before the last generation migrates to Mexico. If they survive the winter, these monarchs return north in spring to mate and lay eggs, beginning the next generation. (Monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains overwinter in California).

The majority of tags are found on dead monarchs underneath trees in Mexico. Severe but atypical winter storms usually cause most deaths. In winter, monarchs do not hibernate; they are conscious and occasionally active, and may change roosts if conditions require. They roost at elevations close to 11,000 feet, choosing sites that are just above freezing—enough to stay alive, but cool enough to keep them from expending too much energy. They cling to fir trees in such incredible numbers that the branches often sag under their weight.

Monarch tagging by volunteers was the main way scientists confirmed, only in the past 30 years, that monarchs migrate to Mexico. (The practice of tagging monarchs dates to the 1930s).


Fall migration

peaks in September and
October in North Carolina,
but stragglers continue
through November.



Tagging has strengthened researchers' belief that fall migration is triggered by shortening day length. "We have learned that the timing and pace of migration is consistent with the hypothesis that the butterflies are responding to, or in some way are guided by, celestial changes in the fall sky," says Monarch Watch director Chip Taylor. Perhaps one day, volunteers will help unravel one of the most profound monarch mysteries: How do individuals in the last generation, who have never been to the wintering grounds in Mexico, find their way?

Besides providing essential data, tagging has fulfilled another of

Monarch Watch's objectives: promoting science education, particularly in primary and secondary schools, and enlightening the public about monarch conservation. Last year, 100,000 people in the United States and Canada, mostly schoolchildren, tagged more than 76,000 monarchs. Here in North Carolina, the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences has distributed tagging kits to more than 130 schools throughout the state and trained teachers on how to use them properly. 

Carla Burgess is a Carolina Country contributing writer and our gardening columnist. She can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com



Opposite page: Each self-adhesive tag bears a unique identification number, an e-mail address, and a toll-free phone number for Monarch Watch. The tag accounts for only 2 percent of the butterfly's weight.

Directly above: Female monarch butterflies lay eggs on milkweed plant leaves. Larvae emerge and grow into caterpillars. Caterpillars go into a pupal stage and form a chrysalis that later produces a butterfly.

How Do I Tag a Butterfly and Where Can I Get Tags?

Tagging kits from Monarch Watch start at \$15. To order supplies, visit <http://shop.monarchwatch.org>, or call toll-free 800-780-9986.

- Tagging a butterfly is less difficult than it sounds, and it's fun. If you handle a butterfly with reasonable care, you won't harm it. The tag doesn't interfere with vigor or flight—it accounts for only about 2 percent of a butterfly's weight. It's easiest to net monarchs while they feed on flowers. Remove the butterfly from the net by gripping the leading edge of the wings between your thumb and forefinger. Use your free hand to apply the tag to the largest ovalish "cell" on the underside of either hind wing, then release the butterfly. Tagging kits contain thorough instructions. A reminder: Don't use pesticides in your butterfly garden, and don't wear insect repellent while tagging butterflies.
- An easy way to collect butterflies for tagging is to raise the caterpillars. You'll first need "host" plants to invite monarchs to lay eggs in your garden. Monarch caterpillars feed only on plants in the milkweed family. Commercial nurseries sell many types of milkweed, including the popular orange-flowered butterfly weed. Or you can start seeds indoors, then set out plants. Once you find caterpillars on your plants, bring them inside and feed them fresh milkweed leaves. Caterpillars will eventually enter a pupal stage or chrysalis, from which the adult butterfly will later emerge. For more information about raising monarchs, go to www.monarchwatch.org


Homecoming

Art by Marsha Mills



"All's Well"

Artist Marsha Mills has made prints of two recent paintings inspired by the scenes of Marines returning home after overseas duty. She is a member of the Touchstone Energy cooperative Jones-Onslow EMC and has witnessed such scenes at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville. Proceeds from the sale of the prints will benefit two charities dedicated to Marines and their families: the Semper Fi Fund for families of Marines killed or wounded in action; and the Project Care Fund, administered by local chambers of commerce to help families who are displaced or otherwise stressed while a member is deployed by the Marines.

Each giclee print is available in a small size (13 by 18 inches, \$165) and a larger size (18 by 25 inches, \$270). These prints are sold at galleries and through the artist. They will be shipped flat. 



"At Last"

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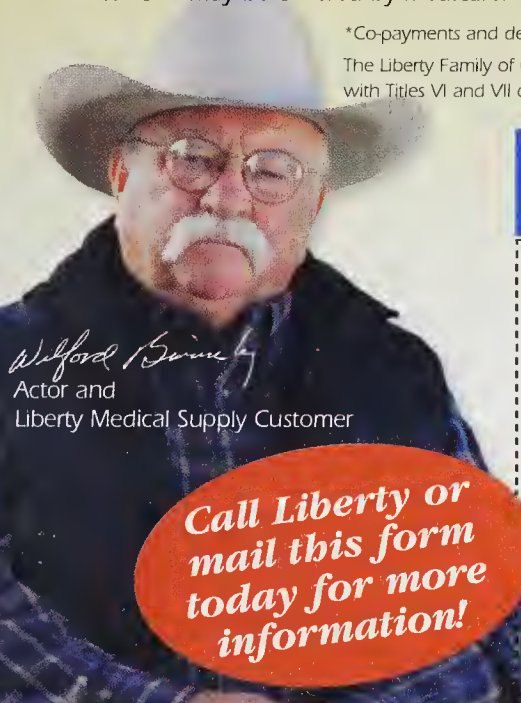
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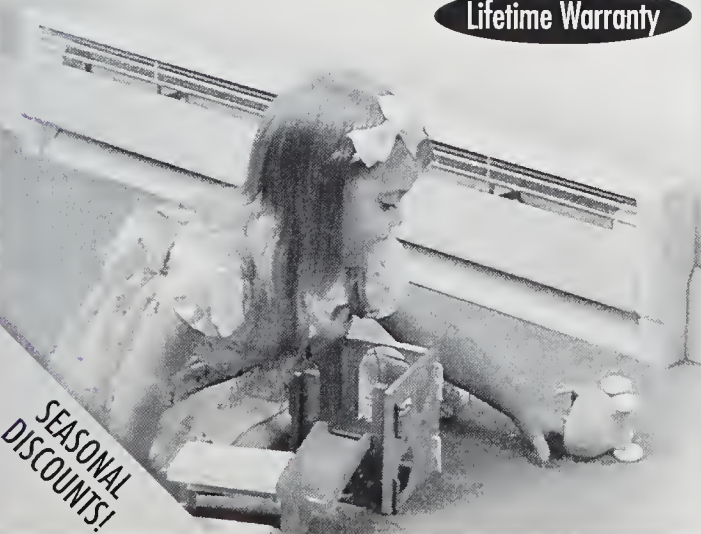
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North Carolina's 4-H Citizenship Focus organizes "A Capital Experience" conference in Raleigh

North Carolina 4-H this spring hosted a conference in Raleigh aimed at connecting state government officials with 4-H young people and adults. The 30 people attending The Capital Experience Conference included 4-H youth and adult leaders.

Sponsoring the May 10-11 event were North Carolina 4-H Youth Development, the NC 4-H Development Fund and North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

Secretary of State Elaine Marshall welcomed the youth delegates at the opening luncheon at the Sheraton Capital Center in Raleigh.

Nelle Hotchkiss, Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) brought greetings on behalf of the cooperatives, our signature sponsor for this event. Suzanne Shoaf Ward, Manager of Public Relations with NCAEC who served on the planning committee, also attended.

Eddie Stocks, Manager of Marketing and Members Services with Edgecombe-Martin

County EMC, served as a delegate to the conference. Mr. Stocks spoke to the delegation at their opening luncheon.

Thirty-seven members of the General Assembly as well as Secretary Marshall attended the May 11 breakfast, after which the youth delegates visited legislators in their offices from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Senator and President Pro Tem Marc Basnight spoke to the group at the Legislative Building. He was very supportive of 4-H, Cooperative Extension and their N.C. State University connections. He was also pleased that we are planning a 2006 conference for 200 delegates from across North Carolina who will learn about youth and government at the NC 4-H

Citizenship Focus event.

On Wednesday morning, Senate Commerce Co-Chairman John Kerr, and House Agriculture Chairman Dewey Hill addressed the delegation at a breakfast at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

The Capital Experience Conference is expected to become an annual event.





Card Holder for Playing Cards

Anny's Playing Cardholder can sit on a card table or in someone's lap, to assist seniors with arthritis and small children in their card games. Players on the opposite side of the holder cannot see the cards, and the holder helps prevent hand cramping during long games. Inventor Ann Latham of Washington in Beaufort County points out that with most cardholders you have to separate cards and then insert them one at a time, but with Anny's cardholder, you can insert several cards at one time because the tube is long and the insertion slit is expandable. The device, made of polyethylene and laminate, is 10 inches long and 1 7/8 inches high and 1 1/2 inches wide. Anny's Playing Cardholder sells for \$10 each, including shipping and handling.

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Custom Signs

Located in Lenoir, Dan's Outdoors offers creative and detailed custom-made wooden signs. The company also does custom painting on other items upon request including mailboxes. Each sign is handcrafted with handcarved letters by owner and artist Dan Pierce, and coated twice with sealer. The array of designs includes cabins, houses, barns, cars, tractors and wildlife. Sign prices range from \$29.95 to \$99.95. Dan's Outdoors also offers acrylic and oil painting classes and sells canvas paintings.

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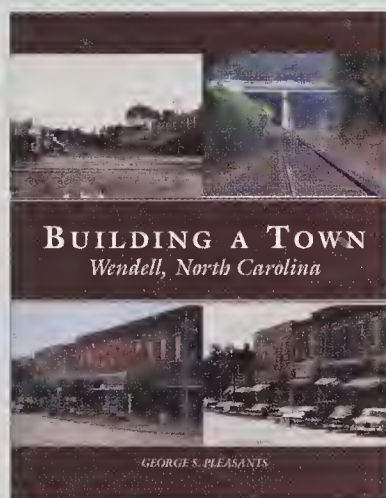
on the bookshelf

"Building A Town: Wendell, North Carolina"

Located in Wake County, Wendell was chartered in 1903 but as this book reveals, the town's roots go back to the early 19th century. Native resident and author George S. Pleasants explores the chronological overview of his hometown and the growth of business, transportation, education, finance and government. Pages also introduce many of Wendell's outstanding citizens, past and present. The book offers more than 250 photographs and includes an appendix that features interesting historical tidbits as well as listings of past mayors, police chiefs and other key folks. Published by The Donning Company Publishers in Virginia Beach. Hardcover, 144 pages, \$43 including shipping and handling. Available through the Wendell Chamber of Commerce and by e-mailing Mr. Pleasants. It's also sold at Quail Ridge Books in Raleigh.

(919) 365-6318 (chamber)

gspleasants@aol.com

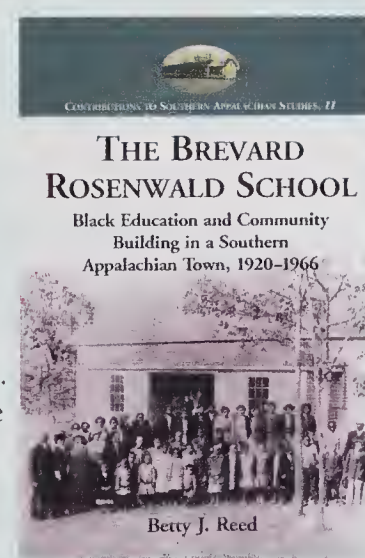


Brevard Rosenwald School

"The Brevard Rosenwald School: Black Education and Community Building in a Southern Appalachian Town, 1920-1966" tells the history of the Brevard school and the Rosenwald project's attempts to improve the education of African Americans in the South. Betty J. Reed also focuses on the school's beginnings, development, significance to the community, its closing, the integration process and the Rosenwald community today. The book presents narratives from former students about their educational goals, pursuits and accomplishments both at the school and later in their lives. Published by McFarland & Company, Inc. in Jefferson. Softcover, 235 pages, \$30.

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Billy Bob

Ray Bob

Jo Bob

...you **name your hunting dogs**
after the person who gave them to you.

From Lisa Squires, Kenly

From Lisa Squires, Kenly

- ... You name your hunting dogs after the person who gave them to you.
- ... You and four of your cousins have the same middle name.
- ... You use bread instead of earthworms for fish bait.
- ... You cut your hair on a full moon so it will grow faster.

From Karen McNeely, Statesville

- ... You rode your bicycle behind the bug machine truck just to smell the fumes.
- ... You wore bread bags and rubber bands over your shoes to go out and play in the snow.
- ... You could walk to the local barbershop and get B.B. Bat suckers and Mary Janes.
- ... You got off at an earlier bus stop so you could go into J.C.'s Toot n' Tell'm to get a "mixie" drink.

From Sam Miller, Morganton

- ... When you go to work you "head to the salt mine."
- ... When you leave real quick, you "cut a choogie."
- ... Something really hard to do is like "pushin' a log chain up a hill."

From Winfred Leonard, Lexington

- ... Mama used a big towel to shoo the flies out the door.
- ... The slop bucket for feeding the hog sat beside the kitchen stove.
- ... You staked the milk cow in a new patch of grass.

From Hannah Woodcox, Lexington

- ... Your bird dog fusses at you for not letting her join your private conversation.
- ... Your dog shakes water on you after every bath and hopes you won't do it ever again.
- ... Your dog takes off before you have a firm grip on the leash.

From Damier Revels, Raeford

- ... Your grocery store is the smokehouse.
- ... You make medicine out of corn whiskey and peppermint candy.
- ... You "scawer" the floors instead of mop them.

From Treva Gregg, Reidsville

- ... You use grasshopper grass to clean chicken manure from between your toes.
- ... You ate the heart of a watermelon and left the rest for bees.
- ... You had to wear shoes and undershirts until May 1.

From Lester Carter Jr., Fayetteville

- ... You know how to make rabbit boxes.
- ... The old-time revivals at your home church lasted from Sunday through Saturday with preaching every night and sometimes during the day.
- ... The only time you ate hot dogs was at the county or state fair.
- ... You went snipe hunting one night and held the bag in a ditch until you realized your friends had played a trick on you and you went home mad at them.

From Viola Shaw, Sparta

- ... You ate oakballs and honeysuckle (wild azalea) fruits in the spring.
- ... You held a handful of bubbies (sweet shrubs) in your hand until they got warm so they would smell sweet.
- ... You cut your fishin' pole in the woods and tied feed sack thread to it and your hook, then caught grasshoppers to use as bait.
- ... You drank water from the spring or creek through a quill weed (Joe Pye weed).
- ... You blew bubbles with a wet cake of soap and a wooden spool.

From Guy & Darlene Brittain, Connelly Springs

- ... You sewed some car inner tubes together and stuffed them with rags then painted diamonds on the top side so it would look like a giant rattlesnake, then went down to the main road on Saturday night and pulled it across the road in front of cars.
- ... You went to the Fiddlers Convention at George Hildebran School.
- ... A witch lives in your county.
- ... You went to the Cat Square Opry.
- ... You tromped on the foot feed of a Model A.
- ... Your job went to China or Mexico.
- ... You watched your uncles roll cigarettes using O.C.B. cigarette papers and Prince Albert tobacco.
- ... You go graveling for horny heads and suckers.
- ... For fun on Saturday night you tied a pine tree top behind your Model A Ford and ran it up and down the dirt roads.
- ... Your first trip to the beach was to Cooksville Beach down below Gary Whitener's house.

From Patricia Horn, Rutherfordton

- ... Your big brother would take an old bed sheet and put you inside it and swing you in the air around and around.

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From Frances Puckett, Youngsville

- ... You used pokeberries for ink and painted with it.
- ... Mama would give the baby a sugar bubble.
- ... Grandma would have a clean snuff can filled with cocoa and sugar for the children's snuff, and you could dip like her with a real "toothbrush" made from dogwood limbs.
- ... You made brush brooms using young saplings found in the woods and tied together.
- ... Every fall Grampa took you "shopping" to find the right kind of straw to make your hearth broom.
- ... You learned not to sit on the counterpin (bedspread).
- ... You went to the creek to get white clay to use to whitewash the hearth and fireplace.
- ... Your toys were different sized jars, bottles, cans and old broken dishes.

From Jill & Jarvis Welch, Lincolnton

- ... Everything is bugbear (a problem).
- ... You know that fuhuddle means crazy.
- ... You have an upclutter (a fit or argument).

From Helen Buchanan, Hickory

- ... You mend the croach in a pair of pants.
- ... You eat karn off the cob.
- ... You know a gapalink is a cap lifter for a wood cookstove.
- ... The small cabinet that held all the family's clothes was called a press.

From Jessie Potter, Goldsboro

- ... You know someone whose hands are as rough as a tater grater.
- ... You tie a knot in your shirt to stop a "ship-o-will" (a bird saying "whip o will" over and over).
- ... You played beauty shop in the cornfield using the corn as doll and corn silks as hair.
- ... You have heard them say, "When I die, bury me deep so the little red ants won't tickle my feet."
- ... You count cars in a funeral procession.
- ... You know that if you kill a snake and hang it up, rain will come.
- ... You have heard someone say, "He paid me no rabbit tail mind." 🐰

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Getting To Know...

Star Jones

Name: Starlet Marie Jones

Born: March 24, 1962 in Badin (Stanly County)

Known for: A co-host on the talk show "The View" since 1997, Star Jones is known to television viewers for her truthfulness, confidence and ability to clarify muddy legal and social issues. Jones worked as a lawyer at the Brooklyn District Attorney's office, and after three years in general trials her work earned her a promotion to Senior Assistant District Attorney in 1991.

Accomplishments: In September 1998 Jones published her first book, "You Have to Stand for Something, or You'll Fall for Anything," which became a bestseller. Star Jones and her fellow co-hosts were awarded the Safe Horizon Champion Award for their efforts to raise awareness on issues of importance to girls and women in 2001. In 2002 she was honored by the East Harlem School of Exodus House for her work in improving educational opportunities for low-income children in the East Harlem community. Jones is a frequent contributor to charitable foundations and serves on the Board of Directors of the East Harlem School of Exodus House, Dress for Success, God's Love We Deliver and Girls, Inc. In 2002 she started the not-for-profit foundation, "The Starlet Fund," which makes financial grants that support and encourage women and girls.



Do You Know...



That Mount Mitchell is the tallest mountain in the eastern United States? The 6,684-foot mountain near Burnsville is more than a mile high. On a clear day visitors can see as far as 85 miles from the stone observation tower at the summit. The Mount Mitchell state park offers visitors hiking, camping, and picnicking spots, along with an education center for groups, and more. Call (828) 675-4611 or visit www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/momi/home.html

classroom
chuckle

Which word in the dictionary
is spelled incorrectly?

A: Incorrectly

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HISTORIC LANDMARK

The Bentonville Battlefield in Four Oaks (Johnston County) offers visitors a historical view of a Civil War landmark. The Bentonville battle was the largest land battle fought in North Carolina, and the State Historic Site includes a monument that marks a mass grave of those who died at Bentonville, a trail tour leading to a section of Union XX Corps earthworks, a visitor center and the Harper House. The Harper House was a civilian house used as a hospital during the battle, and tours there are offered on the hour. The Bentonville Battlefield is open seven days a week. Call (910) 594-0789.

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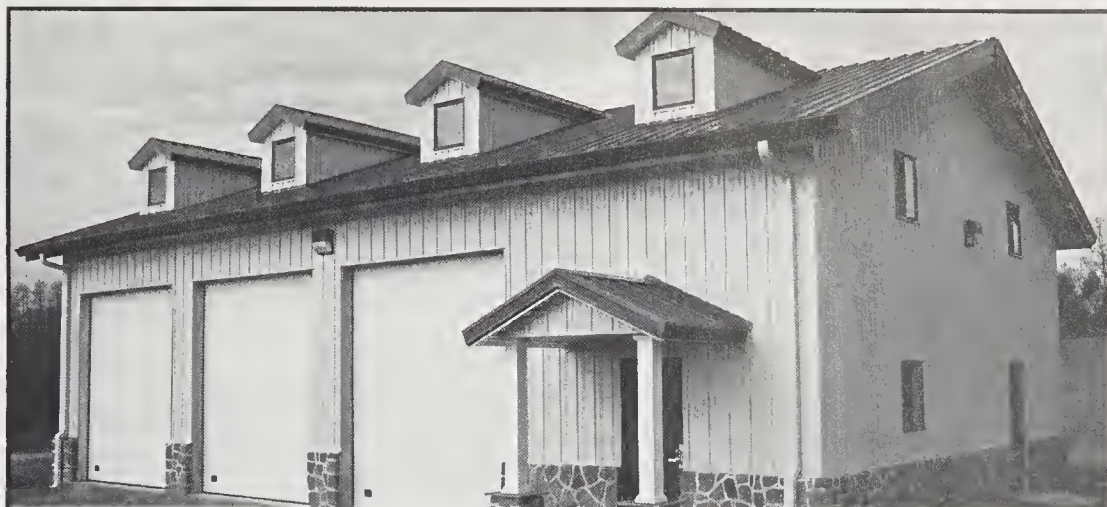
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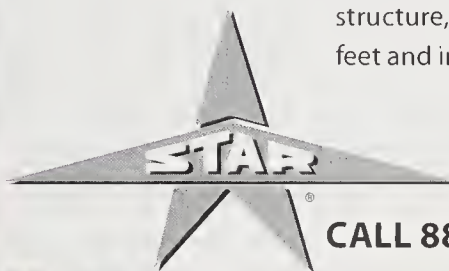
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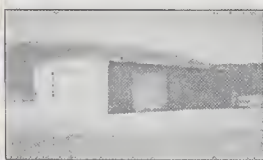
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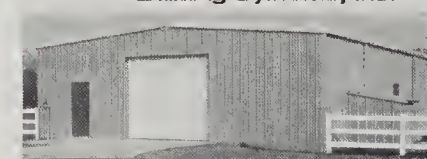
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(828) 632-0106
www.artintheshop.com

Bluegrass Concert

Oct. 1, Greensboro
(336) 333-2605

October Fest

Oct. 1, Morven
(704) 851-9321

RCR Museum Car Show

Oct. 1, Welcome
(336) 731-3389

Touch of Yesterday Show

Oct. 1–2, Concord
(704) 782-1600
www.bostgristmill.com

MOUNTAINS

Art in the Park

Oct. 1, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-7851
www.blowingrock.com

Farm City Day

Oct. 1, Hendersonville
(828) 697-4884
www.historichendersonville.org

Festival of the Frescoes

Oct. 1, Glendale Springs
(336) 982-3076

Forest Festival Day

Oct. 1, Brevard
Cradle of Forestry
(828) 877-3130
www.cradleofforestry.org

Annual Car Show

Oct. 1, Andrews
(877) 558-0005

John C. Campbell Fall Festival

Oct. 1–2, Brasstown
(828) 365-5724
www.folkschool.org

Balsam Mountains Bluegrass Jamboree

Oct. 1, Sylva
(828) 586-6792

The Orchard at Altapass

Oct. 1–31, Little Switzerland
(888) 765-9531
www.altapassorchard.com

Concerts in the Park

Oct. 2, Blowing Rock
(828) 295-7851
www.blowingrock.com

N.C. Symphony Concert

Oct. 4, Jefferson
(336) 846-2787

Foothills Quilters Guild

Oct. 7–9, Shelby
foothillquilt@bellsouth.net

Highlands Arts & Crafts Show

Oct. 8, Highlands
(828) 526-3556

Molasses Festival

Oct. 8, Granite Falls
(828) 396-2052
www.scc.clogdancing.com/photo6.html

Mountain Glory Festival

Oct. 8, Marion
(828) 652-2215
www.mtngloryfestival.com

Autumn Leaves Craft Show

Oct. 8–9, Waynesville
(828) 648-0500
www.braca.org

Annual Chautauqua Festivities

Oct. 8–15, Andrews
(828) 321-3195
www.chautauqua-ave.com

Gallery Crawl

Oct. 14, Jefferson
(336) 846-2787

Lake Eden Arts Festival

Oct. 14–16, Black Mountain
(828) 686-8742
www.lakeedenartsfestival.org

Harvest of Quilts

Oct. 14–16, Hendersonville
quiltshow@westernncquilters.org

Gateway Festival

Oct. 15, Kings Mountain
(704) 739-4755

Valle Country Fair

Oct. 15, Valle Crucis
(828) 963-4609
www.vallecountryfair.org

Alzheimer's Memory Walk

Oct. 15, Murphy
(828) 837-5907

Autumn Leaves Craft Show

Oct. 15–16, Waynesville
(828) 648-0500
www.braca.org

Tractor & Engine Show

Oct. 21–23, Denver
(704) 588-0191

October Events *continued*

Westbend Vineyards Festival

Oct. 1, Lewisville
(866) 901-5032
www.westbendvineyards.com

Farmers Market

Oct. 1–30, Wake Forest
(252) 438-4002
www.wakeforestmarket.org

Annual Festifall Street Fair

Oct. 2, Chapel Hill
(919) 968-2784, www.festifall.com

Heritage Festival

Oct. 2, Fayetteville
(910) 486-0221
www.VisitFayettevilleNC.com

Willow Oak Bluegrass Festival

Oct. 6–8, Roxboro
(336) 599-7387

Quilt Show

Oct. 7–9, Sanford
(919) 770-0293

Emily Singleton Bluegrass

Oct. 7, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-7111
www.sawbriar.com

Holiday Craft Show

Oct. 8, Monroe
(704) 282-4685

Plantation Festival

Oct. 8, Lexington
(336) 249-9676
www.tyronec.com

"Old Fashion Day" Festivities

Oct. 8, Goldston
(919) 837-6534

Singer Tom Fisch Performance

Oct. 8, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-7111
www.sawbriar.com

Tour de Tailwaggers

Oct. 8, Burlington
(336) 438-2023
www.hsaonline.org

British Classic Car Show

Oct. 8, Raleigh, (919) 467-8391
www.ncmgcc.org

Fall Festival

Oct. 8–9, Asheboro
(336) 629-0399
www.randolphartsguild.com



Drop by the Westbend Vineyards' Harvest Festival in Lewisville on Sat., Oct. 1. Incentives include an oyster roast and music by Alleghany Moon. Call (866) 901-5032 or visit www.westbendvineyards.com

Studio Tour

Oct. 8–9, Wake Forest
(919) 544-5060
www.artistsstudiotour.com

College Open House

Oct. 11, Lexington
(336) 243-4254
www.collegeknowledge.biz

Autumn Star Party

Oct. 14, Gastonia
(704) 866-6900
www.schielemuseum.org

Jonathan Byrd Performance

Oct. 14, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-7111
www.sawbriar.com

Car Show, Shag & Dine

Oct. 14–16, Henderson
(866) 438-4565
www.kerlake-nc.com

Sankofa Festival

Oct. 15, Spring Lake
(919) 499-0628

Ghost Tour

Oct. 20–29, Fayetteville
(888) 622-4276
www.fayettevillegoodwoodfestival.com

Valerie Smith &

Liberty Pike: Bluegrass

Oct. 21, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-7111
www.sawbriar.com

Barbecue Festival

Oct. 22, Lexington
(336) 956-1880
www.barbecuefestival.com

Beaucoup Blue: Blues Duo

Oct. 22, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-7111

Janice Martin

Oct. 23, Winston-Salem
www.ncarts.edu/stevens_center

Gold Hill Founder's Day

Oct. 24, Gold Hill
(704) 279-5674

Colonial Bus Tour

Oct. 27–30, Mount Airy
(336) 786-4478 ext. 228

Horse and Mule Days

Oct. 28–30, Denton
(336) 859-2755
www.threshers.com

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Bearfootin'

Through Oct. 22,
Hendersonville, (828) 697-
2022, www.dhinc.org

Grand Hotels of Western N.C.

Through Oct. 31, Asheville
Smith-McDowell House
(828) 253-9231
www.wnchistory.org

PIEDMONT

"Diane Arbus: Family Albums"

Through Dec. 4, Winston-
Salem, Reynolda House
Museum, (336) 888-6641
www.reynoldahouse.org

Annual Sculpture in Garden

Through Nov. 18, Chapel
Hill, NC Botanical Garden
(919) 962-0522
www.ncbg.unc.edu

"Renaissance to Rococo"

Through Jan. 15, Charlotte
Mint Museum of Art
(704) 337-2000
www.mintmuseum.org

"These Little Piggies Stayed Home"

Through October 20,
Lexington, Uptown
Lexington, (336) 249-0383
www.uptownlexington.com

"Within Our Walls"

Through Nov. 1, Charlotte
Lassiter Gallery, (704) 373-
1464, www.lassitergallery.com/art/art_04.htm

"War on Terror"

Through Dec. 2005,
Fayetteville
Airborne & Special
Operations Museum
(866) 547-0649
www.asomf.org

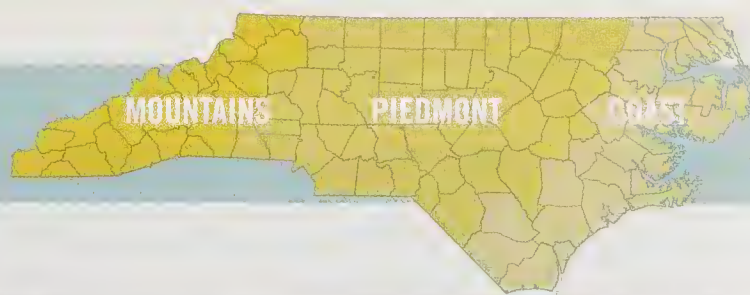
COAST

Marinetta Porter

Through Oct. 8,
Greenville, Wellington
B. Gray Gallery
(252) 328-6336

Gospel Celebration

Through Oct. 15,
Edenton, Rocky Hock
Playhouse, (252) 482-4621



Averasboro Living History Event
Oct. 29, Dunn
(910) 891-5019
www.averasboro.com

Percy Sledge
Oct. 29, Winston-Salem
www.ncarts.edu/stevens_center

COAST

Macclesfield Fall Festival
Sept. 30–Oct. 1, Macclesfield
(252) 827-4158

Peanut Festival
Oct. 1, Edenton
(252) 482-8426

N.C. Seafood Festival
Oct. 1–2, Morehead City
(252) 726-6273
www.ncseafoodfestival.org

Just Horsin' 'Round 2005
Oct. 1–2, Williamston
(252) 758-2105
www.justhorsinround.com

Blind Center Area Crafters Show
Oct. 7–8, Washington
(252) 946-6208

Atlantic Beach Surf Fishing Tournament
Oct. 7–9, Atlantic Beach
(800) 622-6278 or
(252) 726-6350

Drum Inlet King Mackerel Tournament
Oct. 8, Beaufort
(252) 225-8741

Annual Health, Wellness and Safety Expo
Oct. 15, Williamston
(252) 809-6313

Autumn With Topsail
Oct. 15–16, Topsail Beach
(800) 626-2780
www.autumnwithtopsail.com


Fall Indoor Hunter Horse Show
Oct. 15–16, Williamston
(252) 527-3887
www.nceha.com

Calcutta Challenge Wahoo Fishing Tournament
Oct. 20–22, Morehead City
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www.calcuttawahoo.com

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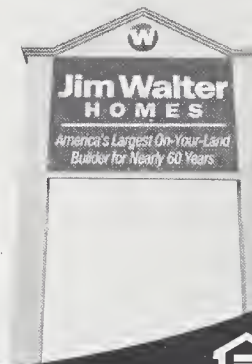

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Bluegrass Hot Air Balloon Festival
Oct. 21, Belhaven
(252) 944-4529
www.wilkinsoncenter.com

Sea Chanteys
Oct. 21, Beaufort
NC Maritime Museum
(252) 728-7317

Fall Gala and Art Show
Oct. 22, Beaufort
(800) 575-7483
www.beauforthistoricsite.org

Trailblazer 5K Run/Walk
Oct. 22, Hertford
(252) 426-1425
www.visitperquimans.com

A Capital Idea/NCDCTA Championship
Oct. 22–23, Williamston
(910) 692-3504
www.carolinadressage.com

Cape Lookout Albacore Festival
Oct. 28–29, Morehead City
(252) 726-3773
<http://claf.org>

Craftsmans' Guild Fair
Oct. 28–30, Elizabeth City
(757) 857-4790
www.albemarlecraftsmansfair.com

NRHA Carolina Fall Horse Show
Oct. 28–30, Williamston
(252) 937-2800

Carolina Kite Festival
Oct. 29–30, Atlantic Beach
(252) 247-7011

Antiques Show and Sale
Oct. 29–30, Edenton
(252) 482-8604

Bazaar Extravaganza
Nov. 5, Hertford
(252) 426-5467

Climb of Cape Lookout Lighthouse
Nov. 5, Cape Lookout
(252) 728-5766
www.nps.gov/caloo/openhouse.htm

Listing Information

Deadlines:

For December: October 25
For January: November 25

Submit Listings Online: Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click "See NC" to add your event to the magazine and/or our Web site.



Tomato Lovers Hit Pay Dirt

People who grow heirloom tomatoes often say they are addicted. Tim Warren of Fayetteville is one of them. Warren started out growing standard hybrids like 'Celebrity' and 'Better Boy.' But when he discovered the overwhelming number of heirloom varieties and their distinct flavors, he began ordering seeds from every mail-order source he could find. Then he started swapping seeds with hundreds of kindred spirits in the tomato forum on a gardening Web site, where he met Craig Lehoullier. Lehoullier is one of the organizers of an annual heirloom tomato taste-testing in North Carolina. At this summer's event, 115 gardeners from North Carolina, Kentucky, Ohio, Virginia and Florida brought their homegrown tomatoes, representing 163 heirloom varieties.

There were green, yellow, orange, red, pink, white and purplish-black tomatoes of every imaginable size and shape, including ones with variegated or striped skins and flesh. They had names like 'Box Car Willie,' 'Turkey Chomp,' 'Green Zebra' and 'Tennessee Britches.' The get-together is an unprecedented opportunity for gardeners to savor the flavor of tomatoes they might otherwise know only from descriptions in seed catalogs. Warren dragged his reluctant wife to the picnic to show her that he was not alone in his obsession. "She understands a little better now about my tomato affection," he says. She even discovered some taste preferences of her own.

One of Warren's favorite varieties is 'Granny Cantrell's German Red.' This meaty, low-acid tomato is named for Lettie Cantrell, who got the seeds from a soldier returning from Germany during World War II. Cantrell is alive and well at 96



Courtesy of Appalachian Seeds Heirloom Tomato Seeds—www.appalachianseeds.com

Heirloom tomatoes offer a wide variety of flavors and come in all shapes, sizes and colors.

To Lift or Not to Lift

Ah, that is the question many gardeners ask this time of year: Will my elephant ears make it through winter? What about my dahlias, my glads, my cannas? Bulb hardiness depends on many factors: the average winter temperatures in your area, the severity of a given winter, the degree of shelter in your garden, and the species or cultivar. Bulbs are ranked from the most tender (injured below 68 F) to the hardiest (injured below 5 F). The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone

Map, which delineates three growing zones for North Carolina (6, 7 and 8), is based on the average minimum temperatures in a region (find your zone at www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/weather/hardiness_zones.html or consult any gardening book).

North Carolina Cooperative Extension provides the following guidelines:

- ▶ Cannas may remain in the ground, mulched, in Zones 7 and 8. Lift rhizomes in Zone 6 after first frost, remove soil and store in dry peat or vermiculite.
- ▶ Dahlias may overwinter in Zones 7 and 8, with mulch; dig in Zone 6 and store at 35–45 F in dry vermiculite or sand.
- ▶ Caladiums do not survive North Carolina winters; dig tubers in fall and store dry at 70–75 F.
- ▶ Glads and elephant ears seem to be on the fence in terms of hardiness within Zones 7 and 8. If in doubt, lift gladiolus corms when foliage dies back and store in a mesh bag at 35–41 F to ensure proper air circulation. Dig tubers of elephant ears, dry them and store at 70–75 F.

For more information, consult the plant label, check with the nursery where you purchased the plant, or ask your neighbors about their experiences.

Entering State Fair Competitions

The 2005 North Carolina State Fair is October 14–23, and there's still time to get your flowers and produce ready for competitions. The 2005 premium booklet contains all the rules, categories, prize amounts, entry forms and deadlines for entering shows. Most judging takes place a couple of days before the fair opens. You can even enter some flower competitions during the fair. Download the premium booklets from www.ncstatefair.org, or write or call for your free copy: N.C. State Fair, 1010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1010, (919) 821-7400, heather.overton@ncmail.net

Hort Shorts

- ▶ Once a frost is predicted, harvest remaining okra, cucumbers, summer squash and peppers.
- ▶ Plant cover crops such as clover, annual ryegrass and buckwheat to suppress weeds and enrich soil.
- ▶ Make sure new perennials have durable labels so you can find them next year.

years old and living in the hills of eastern Kentucky. She says she's never tasted a tomato she likes better. She saves the seeds from the largest tomatoes—which can grow to 2½ pounds—for next year's crop.

To learn more about heirloom tomatoes or connect with other gardeners, visit Lehoullier's Web site at <http://nctomatoman.topcities.com>. Or peruse the discussions at the Internet forum <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/tomato>

Carla Burgess can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com



For more October gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com

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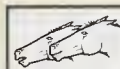
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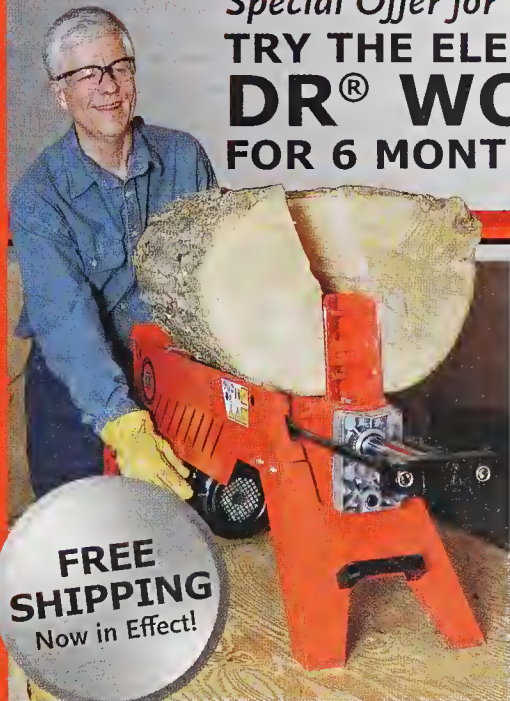
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How to build your own storm windows

People often don't realize how expensive it can be to have custom-made exterior storm windows installed. Good-quality storm windows use almost as much framing material, glass and weather stripping as the primary windows, and installation and fitting can be quite involved. After doing a cost analysis, some homeowners end up just installing new high-efficiency replacement windows instead of storm windows.

If you have free time and medium do-it-yourself skills, you should be able to build some simple, yet attractive, storm windows yourself at a fraction of the cost of professionally installed ones. They can be as energy efficient as custom ones, if not more so, because a simple storm panel has fewer joints for outdoor air to leak through into your home.

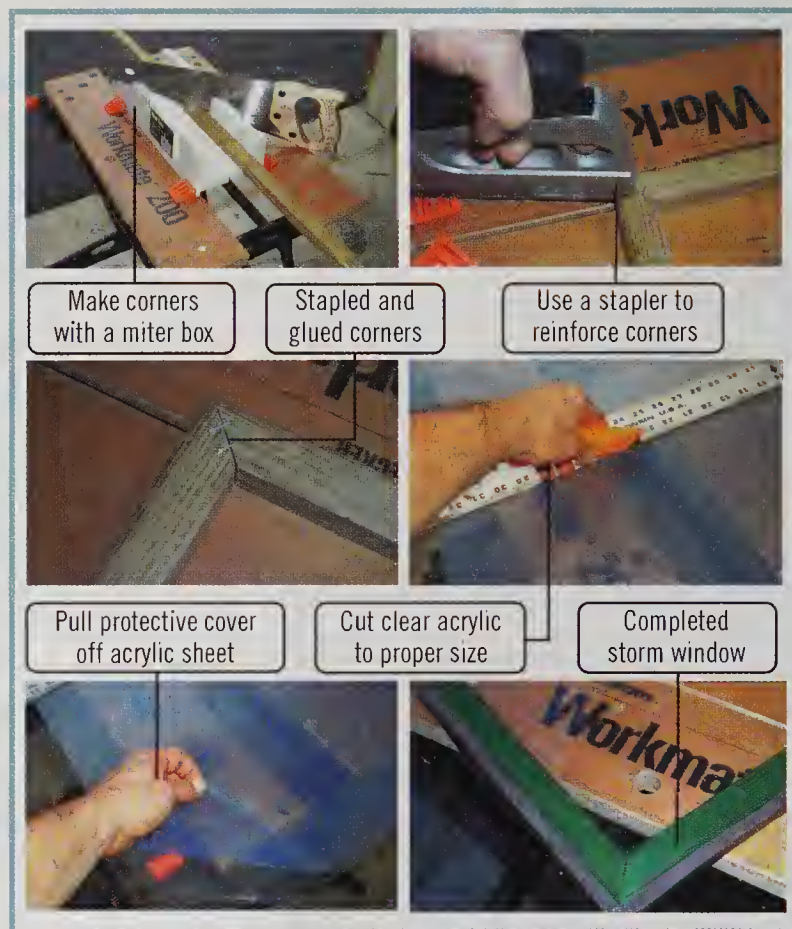
Before building and installing storm windows, make sure your primary windows are in reasonably good condition. Your windows don't have to be new or super-efficient, but the weather stripping should not be damaged or badly worn and the latches should work. Don't consider adding storm windows as an alternative to repairing the primary ones.

Double-pane storm windows are somewhat more efficient than single-pane ones, but I would not recommend them for most homes. They are more difficult to build and the material costs will be close to twice as much. The payback from the extra energy savings with double panes would be greatest in cold climates, but there you would likely have a problem with fogging between the panes.

The energy-efficiency improvements with storm windows come primarily from the dead air space created and from blocking the direct force of the wind on your primary windows. The storm windows should be mounted as close to the primary window as possible. You might think a wider dead space would provide more insulation, but energy-robbing internal air currents can develop between the storm panes and the primary windows.

Use 1-by-2-inch lumber to make the rectangular framing for the storm windows. Any type of wood will work fine. Redwood or cedar are rot-resistant and can be stained and finished with clear urethane for a very attractive appearance, but these types of wood cost a lot more. Pressure-treated lumber holds up well, especially in wet areas, but it does not accept paint as well as standard lumber.

Use a miter box and hand saw to make accurate 45-degree angles. This makes a more professional-looking frame corner joint than just a butt joint, and it will be stronger. Size the outside dimension of the frame to be slightly smaller than the outdoor window opening to allow room for foam weather stripping around it. The compression of the foam should hold the storm window in place, but mechanical fasteners are better for windy areas.



Use clear acrylic plastic (Plexiglas) for the glazing. You can find various-sized sheets of it at all home center stores. Since the energy efficiency comes from the dead air space, not the plastic or glass itself, any thickness of plastic sheet will work fine. If you have children who play near the windows and you want a tougher plastic for first-floor windows, use more expensive polycarbonate (bulletproof glass). Polycarbonate may yellow a little over time if it is exposed to continual direct sunshine.

If you have a router, make a slot along the inner edge of the frame sides before you assemble the frame. This slot will hold the acrylic sheet. The acrylic sheet will have to be cut slightly larger than the inside of the frame so it is secure in the slot. If you do not have a router, nail some narrow wood stops on each side of the edge to form a slot. A still easier method is to use just a bead of clear silicone caulk to hold the acrylic pane in the frame. In this case, the frame is assembled and painted first. Use a staple gun to staple the frame corners together. Use a strong glue, such as Gorilla Glue, in all the frame corner joints. Some of these glues expand as they cure, so use them sparingly.

Place the storm window in the window opening and measure the clearance gap around it. Buy adhesive-backed foam weather stripping, which is slightly thicker than the gap. Peel off the backing and stick the foam to the frame. Leave two small 1/4-inch gaps in the foam at the bottom to function as moisture weep holes. Force the frame into the window opening so the foam is compressed.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com

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Cauldron Dip

- 1 cup (8 ounces) sour cream
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon garlic salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 slice soft dark rye bread
- 1 each medium sweet red, yellow and orange pepper, julienned
- 10 pretzel rods

In a small bowl, combine sour cream, parsley, sugar, onion powder, garlic salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate.

Flatten bread with a rolling pin. Press over an inverted greased 10-ounce custard cup. Top with another 10-ounce custard cup. Place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 7 minutes. Carefully remove top dish. Bake 3–5 minutes longer or until bread is lightly toasted. Immediately remove the bread from the dish. Cool.

Fill bread bowl with dip. Arrange peppers and pretzels under and around bowl.

Yield: 1 cup

Creamy Vegetable Casserole

- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen broccoli, carrots and cauliflower
- 1 can (10½ ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 carton (8 ounces) spreadable garden vegetable cream cheese
- ½–1 cup seasoned croutons

Prepare vegetables according to package directions; drain and place in a large bowl. Stir in soup and cream cheese. Transfer to a greased 1-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with croutons. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees for 25 minutes or until bubbly.

Yield: 6 servings



Dogs in a Sweater

- 1 package (11 ounces) refrigerated breadstick dough
- 8 hot dogs
- 8 popsicle sticks
- Ketchup, mustard and/or ranch dressing

Separate dough; roll each piece into a 15-inch rope. Insert sticks into hot dogs lengthwise. Starting at one end, wrap dough in a spiral around hot dog; pinch ends to seal.

Place 1 inch apart on a baking sheet that has been coated with nonstick cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 18–20 minutes. Serve with the toppings of your choice.

Yield: 8 servings



Apple-of-Your-Eye Cheesecake

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped pecans

Filling:

- 3 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- ¾ teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping:

- 2½ cups chopped peeled apples
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ¼ cup sugar
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 6 tablespoons caramel ice cream topping, divided
- Sweetened whipped cream
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans


Combine the first five ingredients; press onto the bottom of a lightly greased 9-inch springform pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes; cool. In a mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs; beat on low just until combined. Stir in vanilla. Pour over crust. Toss apples with lemon juice, sugar and cinnamon; spoon over filling. Bake at 350 degrees for 55–60 minutes or until center is almost set. Cool on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Carefully run a knife around edge of pan to loosen. Drizzle with 4 tablespoons caramel topping. Cool for 1 hour. Chill overnight. Remove sides of pan. Just before serving, garnish with whipped cream. Drizzle with remaining caramel; sprinkle with pecans. Store in refrigerator.

Yield: 12 servings

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send \$2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com



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